

VOL. 2

DESIGN PHILOSOPHY

SECTION 2

Design Philosophy

The design philosophy of Volume 2 establishes the standards for furniture and furnishings, enhances the healthcare environment, and the facility's public image, and promotes employee morale. The standards are established to meet the following criteria:

Durability

- Products easily cleaned and maintained.
- Products selected under the GSA contract for maximum longevity according to their intended use
- Finishes appropriate for their intended uses (For example, the use of laminate tops are recommended for all work surfaces other than executive areas where wood veneer may be used).

Cost

- Products cost-effective over their anticipated life cycle.
- Consideration is given to manufacturer's warranty and service agreements.
- Products recommended for purchase in accordance with existing federal contracts (A summary of these contracts can be found at the conclusion of this section).

Aesthetics

- Neutral palette with warm and cool accent colors are most successful; accent colors should be classic, not trendy, and able to be removed cost-effectively when refurbishing.
- Healthcare textile upholsteries are recommended for upholstered furniture. Upholstery should be easily replaceable for updating.

Life Safety

- Furniture layout and furnishings placements conform to code and testing requirements and are compatible with the function of the space and allow for ease of egress.
- Style, size and finish of the furniture and furnishings meet current ADA regulations and Military Handbook 1191 requirements (which was republished in 2003 as the Unified Facilities Criteria UFC 4-510-01) and the HFPA Interior Design Presentation Format. *Note: The UFC 4-510-01 shall be referred to as the Military Handbook 1191 in this document.*

Design Philosophy

Flexibility

- The guidelines in this Volume create the MEDCOM standards for furniture
- Consistency of scale, style and modularity provides maximum flexibility for future changes.

Ergonomics and Comfort

- Furnishings and furniture support personal performance, personal health, and meet ergonomic requirements. Selection of ergonomic furniture is function-specific and task oriented.
- Systems product provides glare-free illumination of work surfaces and reduced sound through the use of acoustical panels.

Evidence-Based Design

Evidence Based Design is the practice of implementing design elements into the healthcare environment, which are supported by research and evaluations; these Evidence Based Design decisions favorably impact patient outcomes and enhance the healing process.

- Select furniture and furnishings that enhance the healing environment by:
 - Providing fabrics and upholsteries that are anti-microbial and do not support mold or mildew growth.
 - Provide furniture arrangements in waiting spaces and family areas that promote conversation and interaction.

Green Design

"Sustainable Design (Green Building) is the design, construction, operation, and reuse/removal of the built environment (infrastructure as well as buildings) in an environmentally and energy efficient manner. Sustainable Design is meeting the needs of today without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. Sustainable Design includes not only efficient use of natural resources, but it can also translate into better performance, desirability, and affordability." (Sustainable Design for Military Facilities Engineering Technical Letter 1110-3-491 dated 7 May 01).

- Select furnishings that are environmentally sensitive and that support sustainable design.

Furniture and Furnishings Procurement

This section is designed to be a guide for the selection, specification and sampling of all “loose” furnishings for a healthcare facility. This Volume does not include materials, finishes and lighting, referenced in Volume 1, or artwork, signage or accessories referenced in Volume 3.

Products under this section are purchased by the installation and not by the General Contractor. This is a separate package and not referenced in the construction/contract documents. Purchases under this package are funded by Operations and Maintenance Funds (O&M), or Initial Outfitting dollars (see glossary section for detailed description). Included in this Volume is information on sources for purchasing furniture, such as GSA stock, the Federal Supply Schedule, and the Integrated Modular Medical Support Systems (IMMSS) contract.

A standard regulation throughout all of the buying sources prohibits the use of COM fabrics. Customer’s Own Material (COM) is not authorized under any buying contract and all fabrics selected for furniture are to be selected from standards offered by the furniture manufacturer.

Medical Guide Plates should be considered when planning furniture arrangements for medical/dental facilities. These guidelines are compiled by the Office of the Surgeon General, US Army Health Facility Planning Agency and US Army Corps of Engineers Medical Facilities Center of Expertise. Other guidelines can be obtained from the following resources: US Army Health Facility Planning Agency (<http://hfpa.otsg.amedd.army.mil>) and the Construction Criteria Base (CCB), which is distributed through the Whole Building Design Guide website (<http://www.wbdg.org/ccb/>). When a medical or dental space is not illustrated in a Medical Guide Plate, the Project Interior Designer shall rely on the criteria of the space and interviews with the users to determine the layout.

Contracts

Federal Supply Schedules

The Federal Supply Schedule program, directed and managed by the General Services Administration (GSA), provides Federal agencies with a simplified process for obtaining commonly used commercial supplies and services at prices associated with volume buying. Indefinite delivery contracts (including requirement contracts) are established with commercial firms to provide supplies and services at stated prices for given periods of time. The GSA schedule contracting office issues publications entitled Federal Supply Schedules, containing the information necessary for placing delivery orders with schedule contracts.

IMMSS

The Integrated Modular Medical Support Systems (IMMSS) Contract is a 5-year contract negotiated with Herman Miller for Healthcare and the US Army Medical Department, allowing the Army to purchase deeply discounted products and related services for Army MEDCOM facilities. The current IMMSS contract is administered through US Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville and shall expire January, 2010. Services include the following: design, extended services, installation, and in-service orientation and training. Design services through the IMMSS contract are highly recommended for the most efficient and economical design. This Volume references finishes only for IMMSS product.

Open Market Items

These are products purchased that are not on any type of GSA contract. Open Market products are generally not approved for MEDCOM projects and will not be included in these guidelines.